



MICHIGAN'S OFFICIAL SOURCE FOR ORAL HEALTH CARE

**House Health Policy Committee Meeting
October 11, 2007
Michigan Dental Association**

Michigan Oral Health Statistics

- Uninsured, free and reduced lunch participants were six times more likely to have immediate dental needs with signs or symptoms of pain, swelling, or infection than privately insured, free and reduced lunch non-participants. Barriers to dental care were strongly associated with immediate dental needs.
- One in four (25%) Michigan third grade children have untreated dental decay. Children without an annual dental visit, uninsured children, and socially disadvantaged children had significantly higher rates of untreated dental decay.
- Tooth loss can impair a person's nutrition, employability, and social functioning. Michigan residents are more likely to retain their teeth than their national counterparts. However, Black non-Hispanics are more likely to be missing at least one tooth at age 35-44 and to be edentulous (without teeth) at age 65-74. Residents in the city of Detroit are also more likely to be missing teeth than residents across the rest of Michigan
- Periodontitis is the leading cause of bleeding, pain, infection, and tooth loss among adults, and may increase the risk of cardiovascular disease and premature labor. Gingivitis and periodontitis are most prevalent in American Indians, Mexican Americans, and persons with less education
- The incidence of oral cancer in Michigan was 11.2 new cases per 100,000 persons in 2002 10% higher than the national rate. Previous assessment from 1991-2000 found the Incidence rate was 2.6 times higher for males and 1.28 times higher for African Americans, and the incidences in Wayne and Jackson counties were 1.24 times the state incidence rate.
- Early detection of oral cancer is critical to survival. In Michigan, only 40% of oral cancers were detected at an early stage. The five-year survival rate for oral cancer was 1.7 times higher in Whites than African Americans (52% vs. 30%). Individuals who smoke and drink alcohol excessively are most at risk, but less likely to be seen by a dentist.
- Adults in Michigan were more likely to visit a dentist and have their teeth cleaned than adults nationwide. Unfortunately, Black non-Hispanics and persons with less than a high school education in Michigan were less likely to have visited a dentist or had their teeth cleaned than White non-Hispanics or persons with a high school education

* Information from "Burden of Oral Disease in Michigan" a report released by the Department of Community Health in 2006

Pictures of Severely Decayed Teeth and Gums

